

Appln No. 10/783,227

Amdt date December 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20, and 22-25 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, and 25 are amended, claims 21 and 26 are canceled.

The Specification is amended to apply the suggested corrections by the Examiner to the related Application Serial No. 10/784,048.

Claims 2-3, 5, 8-9, 11, 15-16, 18-19, and 22 are objected to because of informalities. In view of the amendments to the above claims, it is respectfully requested that the above objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4, 20-23 and 25-26 are rejected as being fully anticipated by Fukuoka JP 03013036, and claims 3, 5-19 and 24 are rejected as being obvious over Fukuoka. Applicants submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claims 1 and 7 include, among other limitations, "a threshold controller for generating a discrimination threshold of the discriminator according to the amplitude and the bit rate error of the extracted clock;" and amended independent claim 13 includes, among other limitations, "a threshold controller for generating a discrimination threshold for the discriminator according to the amplitude and

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the bit rate error of the extracted clock." Fukuoka does not disclose the above limitations.

Rather, Fukuoka describes an optical receiver for parallel transmission that includes a threshold level setting circuit (ATC) 14. This threshold level setting circuit extracts a threshold level from a clock. There is nothing in Fukuoka about generating a discrimination threshold "according to the amplitude and the bit rate error of the extracted clock." In fact, Fukuoka emphasizes that "[t]he clock signal is, in general, a signal having no duty cycle deviation." (Abstract). Consequently, amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are not anticipated by Fukuoka.

Amended independent claim 20 include, among other limitations, "a threshold controller programmed with information about clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics for determining a signal receiving discrimination threshold by collating an amplitude of the extracted clock from the clock extractor with the clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics." Fukuoka does not disclose the above limitations.

Rather, the threshold level setting circuit of Fukuoka basically "supplies an extracted threshold level" (Abstract) and is not "programmed with information about clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics," as recited by the amended independent claim 20. Furthermore, there is no mention in Fukuoka that the threshold level setting circuit "collate an amplitude of the extracted clock from the clock extractor with

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the clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics." Again, Fukuoka emphasizes that "[t]he clock signal is, in general, a signal having no duty cycle deviation." (Abstract). Accordingly, amended independent claim 20 is not anticipated by Fukuoka.

Amended independent claim 25 include, among other limitations, "storing information about clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics" and "determining a signal receiving discrimination threshold according to an amplitude of the clock by collating an amplitude of the extracted clock with clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics." As explained above, Fukuoka does not disclose the above limitations. As a result, amended independent claim 25 is not anticipated by Fukuoka.

In short, independent claims 1, 7, 13, 20, and 25 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-19 and 22-24 are dependent from claims 1, 7, 13 and 20, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition

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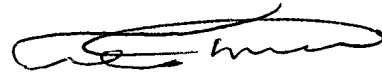
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for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance
are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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